

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BELGRA 04938 211957Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----022710 220449Z /15

R 211640Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1655

S E C R E T BELGRADE 4938

EXDIS

DEPT FOR EUR/RPM, EUR/SOV

FROM USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CSCE
SUBJECT: CHRISTOPHER CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR VORONTSOV

1. AT LUNCHEON GIVEN TODAY FOR CSCE DELEGATES BY AMBASSADOR
SHERER IN HONOR OF DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER, THE LATTER
MET BRIEFLY WITH SOVIET CHIEF DELEGATE VORONTSOV.
DURING THAT CONVERSATION, DEPSEC MADE THREE POINTS:

A. USG EXPERIENCE WAS THAT BEST RESULTS ARE ACHIEVED
AT CONFERENCES OF CSCE VARIETY WHEN EXAMPLES OF
FORWARD-LOOKING OR HUMANITARIAN ACTION ARE
IDENTIFIED, AND OTHER COUNTRIES ARE URGED TO IMITATE
THESE ACTS RATHER THAN TO DWELL ON FLAWS OR RECRIMINATIONS.
THIS IS A PRINCIPLE WHICH SHOULD BE FOLLOWED FOR THE
UPCOMING CSCE CONFERENCE.

B. THE USG APPROACH WOULD BE BOTH CANDID AND
CONSTRUCTIVE. THE USG FEELS AN OBLIGATION TO ASSESS
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HELSINKI ACCORDS, BUT IT FEELS
AN EQUAL OBLIGATION TO DO SO IN A CONSTRUCTIVE WAY

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SO AS TO ENSURE A CONTINUATION OF THE PROCESS.

C. THE US AND SOVIET UNION SHOULD USE THE
CONFERENCE TO DEMONSTRATE TO THEMSELVES AND TO THE
WORLD THAT THEY CAN IN FACT WORK TOGETHER TO IMPROVE
THE CONDITIONS OF PEOPLE. IN THIS REGARD, THE VISIT
OF DR. KIRILLIN TO WASHINGTON WAS AN INSTRUCTIVE EXAMPLE.

2. VORONTSOV SAID THAT THE SOVIETS ARE EARNESTLY PREPARING FOR THE CONFERENCE AND WOULD HAVE SOME PROGRESS TO REPORT, ALTHOUGH NOT OF COURSE AS MUCH OR AS RAPIDLY AS SOME WOULD WISH. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE SOVIETS AS YET HAVE NO NEW PROPOSALS TO ADVANCE IN THE FALL. THESE WILL BE UNDER STUDY IN AUGUST. HE ADDED THAT NON-FIRST USE WOULD NOT BE A PROPOSAL ADVANCED HERE THIS FALL (HE MENTIONED OTHER FORUMS) AND SAID THAT HE FELT THE SOVIETS WOULD COME TO THE CONFERENCE IN BELGRADE WITH "RELATIVELY FEW" NEW PROPOSALS. CHRISTOPHER REPLIED THAT THE USG WOULD LOOK AT THESE PROPOSALS WITH AN OPEN MIND AND ADDED THAT WHILE THE USG WAS ALSO STUDYING NEW PROPOSALS AND WOULD HAVE SOME TO ADVANCE, THE NUMBER WOULD NOT BE LARGE.

3. THERE WAS NO CONFRONTATION DURING VORONTSOV-CHRISTOPHER CONVERSATION. VORONTSOV SAID THAT HE WOULD BE IN BELGRADE THIS FALL, AND ADDED THAT HE LOOKED FORWARD TO SEEING CHRISTOPHER LATER THIS YEAR. HE GAVE NO INDICATION THAT THERE WAS ANY IMMINENT IMPASSE THAT WOULD MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO PROCEED WITH THE FALL CONFERENCE LATER THIS YEAR.
SHERER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, PLANNING MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BELGRA04938
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770260-0981
Format: TEL
From: BELGRADE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770735/aaaabdxo.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f9ef6d66-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1796150
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHRISTOPHER CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR VORONTSOV
TAGS: PARM, YO, US, CSCE, (CHRISTOPHER, WARREN), (VORONTSOV, YULY M)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f9ef6d66-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009